

Phil. Nov. 1844

My Dear Friend:

As the elections are now about over, I wish to suggest whether the Standard had not better be filled with an entirely new style of reading matter. Had you not better now give "Kinney" & "the Emancipation banner" and all politics to the dogs, and give us here in their place something more generally interesting. As Edmund Quincy seems to be actuated by a sense of duty in the fire which he has kept up for the last 5 or 6 weeks upon our New-Organization opponents, I have not thus far felt at liberty to say anything in the way of remonstrance; but if this onslaught is to be protracted further I think we shall all have to enter our protest. It will be wrong both in principle & policy. As it is we have lost immensely in this State. Our subscribers are falling off very rapidly, and we are forfeiting the confidence of many who have been our most faithful helpers. Our Standard list about a year ago was 1250; it is now less than a thousand & unless things take a turn it will be down as low as 500 by next Spring.

I am sorry to say anything to discourage you or any of our Boston friends; but it is

best that you should know the facts, as they may possibly have some influence in showing that a change such as I have proposed in the reading of the Standard would be desirable. We want to see something more from you, Gen. Mr. Chapman; you write too little. Let us have more varied: Edmund's articles are very able, but generally too long.

M. W. Chapman
Boston

Mr. Barn.

No 4 '44

Suppose you announce in the next Standard, that now the elections are over you mean to furnish a greater variety of reading & to make the paper more generally interesting. You may depend upon it if something is not done soon the Standard will run down. Be kind enough to throw this to Edmund Quincy & thus save me the trouble & postage of another letter; and if you can, let him see it before he sends on his next budget to the Standard.

Yours sincerely
M. W. Chapman